

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09667 311028Z  
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9667

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PORG, MILI, UNSC, LE, IS  
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: ARMIE'S MOVE TO SOUTH

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 2070; (B) BEIRUT 4308; (C) TEL AVIV 9659

1. TALKED TO DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN AT 1030 HOURS LOCAL. HE SAID THEY HAVE INFORMATION THAT LEBANESE TROOPS HAVE NOW PASSED KAWKABA BY SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS AND ARE APPROACHING AREA OF POTENTIAL TROUBLE. HE ALSO NOTED THERE WERE LEBANESE MILITARY AIRCRAFT CIRCLING OVER THE AREA.

2. I REPORTED TO HIM NEGATIVE RESULTS OF PARKER'S DISCUSSION EARLIER THIS MORNING WITH BOUTROS AND ABDO (REF B.) WEIZMAN AND I ARE BOTH, I BELIEVE, GENUINELY BAFFLED BY CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS APPARENTLY BEING RECEIVED BY LEBANESE FROM HADDAD AND BY ISRAELIS BY HADDAD. INCIDENTALLY, IT IS CLEAR THAT PROBLEM MAY NOT BE SO MUCH HADDAD'S FIRING, OR FIRING BY HIS REGULAR LEBANESE ARMY CADRES, AS FIRING BY THE OTHER MILITIA GROUPS WHO ARE AT BEST ONLY PARTLY UNDER HADDAD'S EFFECTIVE

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CONTROL.

3. WEIZMAN, WHO WAS SITTING WITH HIS CHIEF OF STAFF AND HIS COMMANDER OF THE NORTHERN REGION WHEN I TELEPHONED, AGAIN SAID THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE LEBANESE FORCE HAD TO COME "THROUGH MARJAYOUN AND THE ENCLAVE" RATHER THAN ACROSS THE BRIDGE FROM NABATIYAH.

WE WENT OVER AGAIN THE DIFFICULTY OF CONTROLLING THAT ROUTE. IN ANY EVENT, I SAID, THIS IS NOW WATER OVER THE DAM. I THEN MADE VERY STRONG PITCH TO WEIZMAN THAT WE HAD DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DELAY THE MOVEMENT BUT THE LEBANESE FOR THEIR OWN GOOD REASONS HAD FELT COMPELLED TO MOVE TODAY. WE ARE COUNTING ON THE GOI TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESTRAIN HADDAD AND THE MILITIAS. IF FIGHTING DOES START BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN GROUPS AND THE LEBANESE ARMY FORCE, THE OVERRIDING PRIORITY ATTACHES TO MAKING CERTAIN THAT THE IDF STAYS COMPLETELY OUT OF IT. I PAINTED A RATHER SOMBER PICTURE OF THE DELICATE MOMENT OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE TRAGIC RESULTS ANY RPT ANY IDF INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HADDAD WOULD HAVE AT THIS JUNCTURE. I SAID WITH AS MUCH URGENCY AS I COULD MUSTER THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE LEBANESE BE LEFT TO HANDLE THIS THEMSELVES IF INDEED SHOOTING STARTED.

4. WEIZMAN ASSURED ME THAT "YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT WE WON'T GET INTO IT." HE SAID THAT THE MOST ISRAEL WOULD DO WOULD BE TO OPEN THE GATES FOR LEBANESE REFUGEES TO COME INTO ISRAEL SHOULD IT COME TO THAT. HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE WHAT SHOOTING MIGHT TAKE PLACE FROM THE MILITIAS OR THE HADDAD FORCE, BUT HE DID ASSURE ME THAT THERE WOULD BE NO IDF INVOLVEMENT.

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5. HAVE JUST HEARD FROM MIKE NEWLIN IN JERUSALEM THAT LEBANESE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN FIRED UPON FROM THE MILITIA-HELD AREAS. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE LAF WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ADVISED TO KEEP THEIR AIRCRAFT AWAY FROM SUCH ZONES IF THEIR PURPOSE IS TO MAKE AS PEACEFUL AN ENTRY AS POSSIBLE TO THE TIBNIN AREA.

6. DURING CONVERSATION WEIZMAN AGAIN STRESSED THAT HADDAD'S MAJOR WORRY IS THAT A FORCE OF 500 COMING THROUGH ENROUTE TO TIBNIN WOULD DROP OFF A HUNDRED OR SO IN MARJAYOUN TO TAKE OVER. I SAID THAT WE HAD NO INDICATION THIS IS THEIR INTENTION, BUT RATHER THAT THEY ARE INTENDING TO OCCUPY THE AREA AROUND TIBNIN. I WISH I WERE MORE CONFIDENT OF WHAT I HAVE JUST STATED.  
LEWIS

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NNN

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